

¿HA VISTO USTED A ESTE HOMBRE?

Si Usted ha visto a este hombre en alguna ocasión desde la mañana del viernes 22 de marzo de 1974, se le pide comunicarlo a la Policía Judicial del Estado en Hermosillo; teléfonos 2-08-78 y 2-03-51

Muchas Gracias

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN?

If you have seen this man at any time since the morning of Friday, March 22, 1974, you are requested to contact the Sonora State Judicial Police in Hermosillo:

Telephones 2-08-78 and 2-03-51

Thank you.



UPI Telephoto

Hundreds of copies of this handbill were distributed in the search for Patterson

Mexican Abduction

Consulate Denies Kidnap Is a Hoax

Hermosillo, Mexico

The U.S. consulate officially denied yesterday that the kidnaping of Vice Consul John Patterson was a hoax. It said that ransom note is being studied by U.S. officials in Washington.

Denial that the March 22 kidnaping was phony came from a consulate spokesman four days after high Mexican officials told newsmen privately that the theory of a "self-kidnaping" had not been entirely discounted.

The ransom note has not been made public. It was left in the consulate here two hours after Patterson disappeared.

"In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, we consider the disappearance of John Patterson a kidnaping," the consular spokesman said.

U.S. authorities refused to comment on newspaper reports that the ransom note threatened to kill one person a week if instructions were not followed.

"Until such time as the ransom note is published, I'm not allowed to comment on its contents," U.S. spokesman Robert Milton said. "And it may never be published."

The mysterious ransom note, which was left in the consulate only two hours after Patterson's disappearance March 22, is being held in Washington by U.S. authorities.

The newspaper *El Imparcial* yesterday published portions of the note, which it said was signed (in English) by "the People's Liberation Army of Mexico." Milton has confirmed that a ransom note was received, in

Patterson's handwriting in English.

Asking for a \$500,000 ransom, the kidnapers reportedly threatened to kill one person — chosen from members of consular families — each week until ransom instructions were carried out. The instructions included keeping the case unknown to news media and Mexican officials, *El Imparcial* said.

United Press